

Table 16. Number and percent distribution of drug mentions by therapeutic classification, according to ambulatory care setting: United States, 1996

Therapeutic classification ¹	Combined settings		Total	Physician offices	Outpatient departments	Emergency departments	Total	Physician offices	Outpatient departments	Emergency departments
	Number of drug mentions in thousands	Percent distribution								
All drug mentions	1,224,656	100.0	100.0	80.3	8.2	11.5	137.3	133.9	148.7	156.1
Cardiovascular-renal drugs	170,464	13.9	100.0	84.7	8.8	6.4	19.1	19.7	22.4	12.2
Drugs used for relief of pain	168,996	13.8	100.0	67.6	7.8	24.6	18.9	15.5	19.7	46.1
Antimicrobial agents	156,221	12.8	100.0	79.5	6.4	14.1	17.5	16.9	14.8	24.3
Respiratory tract drugs	125,812	10.3	100.0	80.7	6.6	12.7	14.1	13.8	12.4	17.6
Hormones and agents										
affecting hormonal mechanisms	109,372	8.9	100.0	84.5	9.3	6.2	12.3	12.6	15.1	7.5
Central nervous system	88,920	7.3	100.0	81.5	10.1	8.5	10.0	9.9	13.3	8.3
Skin/mucous membrane	71,318	5.8	100.0	88.3	6.6	5.1	8.0	8.6	7.0	4.0
Metabolic and nutrient agents	63,778	5.2	100.0	83.7	9.4	6.9	7.1	7.3	8.9	4.9
Gastrointestinal agents	57,338	4.7	100.0	77.1	9.3	13.6	6.4	6.0	8.0	8.6
Immunologic agents	47,246	3.9	100.0	84.1	8.8	7.2	5.3	5.4	6.2	3.7
Ophthalmic drugs	32,260	2.6	100.0	92.2	4.4	3.4	3.6	4.0	2.1	1.2
Neurologic drugs	30,530	2.5	100.0	76.8	9.3	14.0	3.4	3.2	4.2	4.7
Hematologic agents	22,302	1.8	100.0	79.3	12.0	8.8	2.5	2.4	4.0	2.2
Radiopharmaceutical/contrast media	8,554	0.7	100.0	94.1	4.7	*	1.0	1.1	0.6	*
Other and unclassified ²	71,541	5.8	100.0	77.1	9.5	13.4	8.0	7.5	10.1	10.6

* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

¹Based on the standard drug classification used in the *National Drug Code Directory*, 1995 edition (7).

²Includes anesthetics, antidotes, oncolytics, otologics, antiparasitics, homeopathic products, and unclassified/miscellaneous drugs.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.